

**Plumas County Coordinating Council**

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF  
May 6, 2011**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL -1:01 p.m.**

Members present are Brian Morris (Chair), Robert Perreault (Vice Chair), Randy Wilson, Frank Stewart, and Supervisor Sherrie Thrall. Absent is Supervisor Terry Swofford.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There being no public comment, Morris moves on to Item #3.

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

After discussion on one revision in the minutes, a motion is made by Thrall and seconded by Wilson to adopt the meeting minutes of April 1, 2011, as revised. Motion is passed.

**4. NATIONAL FOREST TRAVEL MANAGEMENT**

**a. Update, discussion, and possible recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding the travel management decisions for the Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, and other forests**

Supervisor Thrall relays that a Board of Supervisors strategy meeting has not occurred yet, but is in progress.

**b. Announcement of road closure at Spanish Creek / Devil's Elbow**

Brian Morris reports on the pending closure of the road at Spanish Creek / Devil's Elbow. The public is paying increasing attention to road closures because of the Travel Management process. A brief discussion ensues primarily concerning the need to create a process to provide notice to Plumas County.

**5. FOREST PLANNING RULE**

**a. Discuss "Science Review" of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

A brief discussion takes place among the Council members about concerns that science will govern the forest rule. Terri Simon-Jackson states she will work with regional planning staff on this topic.

**b. Recommendation to Board of Supervisors regarding comment letter on revisions to National Forest Planning Rule**

A lengthy discussion takes place regarding additions and deletions to the draft letter crafted by Chair Morris regarding revisions to the National Forest Planning Rule. The resulting changes to the draft letter are as follows:

- *Create a new paragraph that addresses the elimination in the new rule of any reference to forest receipts and payments to support local roads and schools;*
- *Emphasize Plumas County's expectation that other agencies coordinate plans and projects with the County;*
- *Delete the second bulleted item under Other Comments. (This topic will now be covered in the new Forest Receipts paragraph mentioned above);*
- *Add to Other Comments language in support of having the primary decision-making authority shifted from the Regional Forester to the local forest supervisors;*
- *Add to Other Comments a broader description of the concept of "landscape character" to include working landscapes and historic landscapes;*
- *Provide a comment regarding the last-minute timing of the release of the Science Review.*

Randy Wilson makes a motion that the Coordinating Council recommend that the Plumas County Board of Supervisors approve and submit the letter as revised. Bob Perreault seconds the motion and a unanimous affirmative voice vote is recorded.

## **6. FOREST SERVICE SOPAS**

Brian Morris opens the discussion asking for comments on the *Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)* for both the Plumas National Forest and Lassen National Forest. Frank Stewart says these are good lists and it would be beneficial to continue receiving them quarterly on the website. Randy Wilson adds that these documents will aid in the coordination process. Terri Simon-Jackson states that various District Rangers can come to Coordinating Council meetings and address some of those projects. The conversation shifts to a brief discussion about the Forest Service website and the need to make it more "user friendly." Other topics briefly discussed by the Council focus on the following:

- Efforts to clarify the use of the word "coordination";
- Need to receive information prior to when SOPAs are published;
- Possible presentation on how Forest Service budgeting works;
- Quincy Library Group (QLG) proposed program of work;
- Project initiation letter identifying project, team members, timeline;
- Possible changes in coordination under a new planning rule (pre-decision objection process replaces post-decision appeal process);
- Travel Management - Forest Service continuing emphasis to work with the public, County, and Coordinating Council.

## **7. PLUMAS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

Brian Morris states that the Administrative Draft of the General Plan is still in the review stage and shares with the Coordinating Council language he has submitted addressing

coordination with federal and state agencies. Bob Perreault shares his desire that coordination is clearly addressed throughout the General Plan document.

## **8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **a. H.R. 1581 (McCarthy) – Return inventoried roadless areas to multiple use if not recommended for wilderness designation**

Bob Perreault provides a summary on this bill and Brian Morris adds that it has been referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Water.

### **b. H.R. 242 (Herger) – Suspend implementation of Travel Management Rule**

Brian Morris reports that the provision passed by the House of Representatives to defund implementation of the Travel Management Rule did not survive in the final bill that approved spending for the federal government through the fiscal year ending September 30.

### **c. Stewardship Contracting**

Alice Carlton elaborates that the revenues will be used for NEPA and the Regional Forester is not in support of that.

### **d. Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization**

Bob Perreault states reauthorization language was included in the President's budget proposal and that the amounts have been left blank in order to serve as a "placeholder." Frank Stewart reports that some people are pushing to eliminate Title III (County) funds and to move all funding to the Resource Advisory Committees under Title II. The Fire Safe Councils are opposed to eliminating Title III because it is a significant source of their funding. Brian Morris suggests that this be agendized so the Board of Supervisors can register its position.

## **9. LITIGATION UPDATE**

### ***Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. California Department of Parks and Recreation, et al. (challenging EIR and funding for over-snow vehicle program)***

Bob Perreault provides a brief overview of this issue and Brian Morris relays that the Forest Service was dismissed from the litigation.

## **10. MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **a. Coordination Training – April 2011**

Brian Morris shares that the training was informative. Supervisor Thrall explains that the focus was on coordination but she would have liked more specific guidelines. Thrall adds that there was discussion about adding citizen representation to the Coordinating Councils, which is at the discretion of each county. Thrall states that some aspects of coordination were listed as follows: 1. Have a picture of what is to be accomplished; 2. Don't re-invent the wheel; 3. Need to established practical applications.

**b. Sierra-Cascade Dialog Sessions – Saturday, June 4, 2011 (location TBA),  
“Improving Social and Economic Conditions in Rural Forest Communities”**

Brian Morris asks if anyone would be interested in attending this session. No definitive response is given.

**c. Other meetings**

Supervisor Thrall shares that she attended a recent *Tea Party* meeting concerning the Forest Rule. Thrall adds that the *Tea Party* was formulating a comment letter concerning the Forest Rule and the importance of public access to public lands. Alice Carlton expressed appreciation for Sherriff Hagwood’s willingness to dialog with the Tea Party and the Forest Service.

Brian Morris mentions a series of meetings concerning water rights and planning for stream restoration projects. Morris adds that progress has been made on several projects (i.e., Greenhorn, Upper Dotta Canyon, and Last Chance). Alice Carlton states that the Pacific Southwest Region is working with the State Water Resources Control Board to determine how the Forest Service will address water rights concerns in its project planning and implementation.

**11. DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**a. Set next meeting** – The next meeting is set for June 3, 2011

**b. New agenda items:**

- i. Possibly adding citizen representation to the Coordinating Council
- ii. Navy Presentation – June 3, 2011
- iii. Other items:
  - Road Closure Project
  - Science Review

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.